MINUTES
23.09.2026
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:
Cllr Fell – Chairman
Cllr Morrison
Cllr Parker
Cllr Stammers
Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Sixteen members of the public

Ahead of the start of the meeting Ms Suzi Egleston, MCIEEM, HLS Project Manager New Forest, for Forestry England gave a detailed presentation and responded to numerous questions from members of the public on the proposed wetland restoration works to Millersford Inclosure.

Public Question Time
A member of the public reported that Forestry England didn't appear to be enforcing verge parking and damage was still occurring to noticeboards in the car parks because they still weren't using anti-theft screws.

A member of the public said he'd seen the comments about the pinch points during the A31 road closure and agreed that their restrictions and inconsiderate drivers push traffic to the more minor roads which cause further congestion and thought it was time to consider that they be removed.

66.26 Business Raised During Public Question Time
Cllr Fell advised that New Forest District Council and National Park Authority had set up four working groups to address the issues which arose out of the A31 road closure and fire. At other times, the pinch points serve their purpose to slow traffic down which was the Council's intention when they were installed along with the two Speed Indicator Devices subsequently installed.

67.26 Apologies
None.

68.26 Declarations of Interest:

a. To receive **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:
None.

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:
The Clerk confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

69.26 Minutes
To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2026:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

70.26 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed:
Residential Bin: No update from David Millar.
Local Infrastructure Fund: The application was submitted by the deadline of 7th August.
Gate and fencing by the cattle Grid: This has been reported to highways again because it doesn't appear to have any integrity as reported to the Clerk by a resident.
Lease: A draft Lease and Deed of Variation will be available to consider at the October meeting.

71.26 Consultation

To consider a response to the Regulation 19 Submission Draft of the New Forest National Park Authority's draft Local Plan (deadline 30th September 2026):
Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response be submitted which reiterated what the Council had previously submitted for the last consultation but that additional comments be included:

- about the volume of traffic which will be generated along Roger Penny Way from the new housing in Fordingbridge in view of the fact that Natural England specifically identified Roger Penny Way (B3078) as a route where increased traffic could increase collision risks with free-roaming livestock;
- how cumulative increases in traffic on it are intended to be assessed and mitigated. Given the existing issues on the road;
- what additional traffic and speed-management measures should be considered, for example average-speed cameras.
- re-state the request for a site-specific policy for Sandy Balls.

72.26 Licensing Act 2003 - Variation Premises Licence (S34) Application - Sandy Balls Holiday Centre, Sandy Balls Estate, Godshill

To receive a report from Councillor Fell on the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee of New Forest District Council at which the application was considered and to agree on any next steps with regard to the decision of the Sub-Committee to approve the application:
Cllr Fell gave a detailed report on a recent meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee which had had attended with the Clerk to speak on the Council's behalf. He said he had found the meeting very frustrating.

After the meeting he said he had spoken with the Licensing Officer and was advised that the only solution for action to be taken on repeated disturbances caused by Sandy Balls's activities was for residents to keep diaries and to submit frequent reports to the Public Protection officer. He suggested that a link be added to the Council's website providing information on how to report noise nuisance to New Forest District Council.

73.26 NFDC Community Recovery Working Group

To nominate a Councillor representative to join New Forest District Council's Community Recovery Working Group which will identify the most significant impacts of the A31 Closure/Fire on local communities and ensure that community needs and concerns help inform recovery priorities:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Parker be approved as the Council's representative.

74.26 Request from Minstead Parish Council for a Review of Road Classification, Data and Navigation Routing Across the New Forest National Park

To consider a request from Minstead Parish Council to support a letter being sent by them to Hampshire County Council and National Highways with the aim of preventing SatNav systems diverting traffic off the main highway routes and onto the unsuitable New Forest roads:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk advise Minstead Parish Council of Godshill Parish Council's support and agreement to add its name to the letter.

75.26 Fibre to the Premises

To consider the response received from Openreach, communication with Sir Desmond Swayne MP post appointment of the new minister and to agree on any next steps in taking forward the removal of Godshill from the Project Gigabit roll out:
A lengthy discussion was held taking into consideration the recently received email from John Shanks advising that the recent Open Market Review showed that whichever company had said they were going to be install FTTP to the Godshill area within the next 3 years had changed their mind.

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that a further letter be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, as drafted by Cllr Parker, and that this be sent to Sir Desmond Swayne to ask that he take the matter up again with the Secretary of State.

It was also agreed that contact be made with the prospective Labour, Liberal Democrat and Reform parliamentary candidates for the New Forest West constituency to see if they would take the issue forward on the Council's behalf.

76.26 Parish Council Logo

To consider a draft Parish Council logo and to agree on the brand guidelines for its use:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the logo be approved.
Cllr Parked asked that the final high-quality versions of the logo in its different forms be sent to him so that he can write the brand guidelines for consideration at the next meeting.

77.26 Speed Reducing Measures Woodgreen Road

To consider a letter drafted by Councillor Parker to Hampshire Highways to request that they undertake a site assessment of the section of Woodgreen Road between the Fighting Cocks and the junction with Castle Hill with the aim of implementing modest warning and speed-management measures on the road:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the letter be approved and sent to Hampshire Highways.

78.26 Godshill Village Hall as the official address of Godshill Parish Council

To consider a response from the Godshill Village Hall Committee regarding the use of the Village Hall as an address for the Parish Council and to agree on next steps:
Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair it was RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

79.26 Conclusion of External Audit

To resolve to accept the External Auditor's Report and Certificate from BDO LLP in relation to the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025-26 and to consider any actions arising from the Report:
Councillors Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Audit report be noted with there being no follow up actions to be taken.

80.26 Finance and Policy Payments

a. Payments

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following payments be ratified:
£252.00 BDO LLP – for Annual External Audit
£191.94 Ionos Cloud Ltd – Website hosting and email licences for March-September 2026

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £1,814.07 as the Accounts for payment for September:

		£
BDO LLP	External Audit	252.00
Ionos Cloud Ltd	Website hosting and licences	191.94
B Cornish	Salary for August	432.77
	Salary for September	519.18
HMRC	PAYE June to September	418.18

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the payments for September be approved.

c. To resolve to approve the Bank balances - Cheque and Reserve Accounts:

Current Account: £1,091.70 Deposit Account: £4,313.58

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the balances for September be approved.

d. To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual Report as at 30th September 2026:
This item was deferred to the next meeting.

81.26 Outside Bodies and Representation

To receive reports from Council representatives:

National Forest Association of Local Councils: Cllr Fell gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which there were reports from NFDC on the follow up from the A31 fire, the NFNPA and a discussion was held following a letter received from the Local Government Minister on the review of the Hampshire decision on the Local Government Review. Further information will be available later in the year.

82.26 Correspondence

Councillors noted receipt of the following correspondence:

1. A number of emails from residents raising objection to the licence application for Sandy Balls.
2. NFDC – Email notification of the outcome of the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting and the Minutes.
3. Wiltshire Council has commenced a Scoping Consultation on the preparation of the new Wiltshire Local Plan. The consultation opens at 09:00 on 2 September 2026 and closes at 23:59 on 30 September 2026.
4. Hampshire County Council - Notification of Temporary closure extension - Part of Godshill Footpath 758 due to a faulty bridge upon the route.
5. Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society – The Summer copy of Waymark.

83.26 Any Other Business:

Audit: Cllr Woodward asked for his thanks to be recorded to the Clerk for the clean audit.

84.26 Next Meeting
Councillor Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 13th October 2026 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Part 2 Exempt Matters – Staffing

85.26 The Chair to propose the following resolution – 'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw in view of the confidential nature of the business on staffing about to be transacted'.

86.26 National Salary Award
To consider and resolve to approve the salary award of 3.3% and backdated payments for the Clerk for the period from 1st April 2026 in accordance with the National Association of Local Council's document 'Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27' and in accordance with her Employment Contract:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the award and backdated payments be approved.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.